

*Jim*

489 EAST RD., CADYVILLE, NY • 518 293-8294  
Jan, 30, 2000 2405 '00 AUG 16 P2:15

Jane Henney, M.D., Commissioner  
Food and Drug Administration  
5600 Fishers Lane Rm 1471  
Rockville, MD

Dear Jane Henney,

I am very much concerned about the use of antibiotics as growth promoters in livestock, poultry and swine. Many of the antibiotics used as growth enhancers in such animals are also prescribed for human use.

Most public health officials and scientists agree that resistance to antibiotics is caused by overuse, not just in human medicine but also in agriculture. In fact the "Centers for Disease Control consider the agricultural use of antibiotics to be the major cause of antibiotic resistance in food-borne illness." (NUCLEUS, Winter 1999-00)

Although most people take the effectiveness of antibiotics for granted, I don't believe anyone in your position can afford to adopt such an attitude. Already such countries as Sweden, Denmark, and the United Kingdom have weighed the risks and have passed laws banning the use of antibiotics as growth promoters. By developing animal husbandry practices that reduce stress by alleviating overcrowding and improving cleanliness, it was found that antibiotic growth promoters could be stopped without adversely affecting the health of the livestock industry.

When one considers the catastrophic risks to human health and benefits that a few changes in animal husbandry would make possible, I don't think it is too much to ask that antibiotics be banned as growth promoters in the livestock industry.

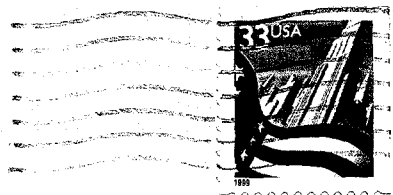
Sincerely yours,

*Kimberly Berg*  
Kimberly Berg

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Mr. Kimberly Berg  
489 East Road  
Cadyville NY 12918-2037



Jane Henney M.D., Commissioner  
Food & Drug Administration  
5600 Fisher Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

